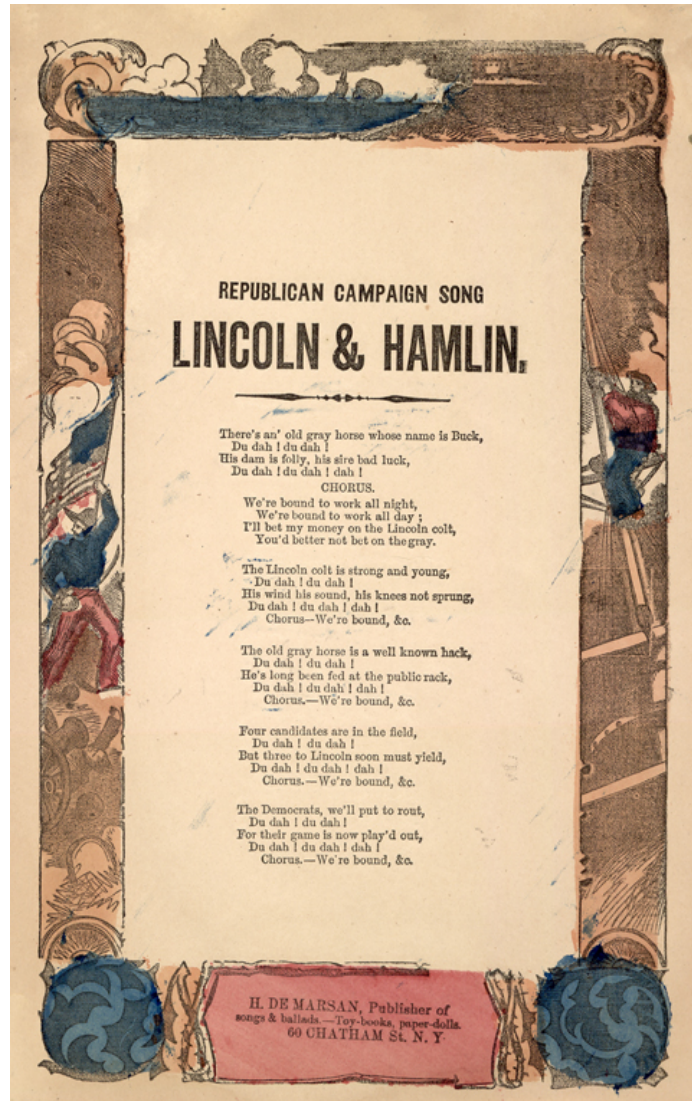


Attention Middle School Music Teachers!

Have you seen this Lincoln campaign song, which follows the tune of “Camp Town Races?”



I would like to offer you an opportunity for your middle school students to sing and record a song about Lincoln, one of his favorite songs, or a song popular during the Civil War. Approximately 20 videos will be posted on the State Department of Education’s Humanities website and linked to the Bicentennial website and will rotate during the spring of 2009.

Instructions:

- 1) Select one song to perform, either in a concert or in the classroom between Feb. 1 and May 1, 2008.
- 2) Record the video on SchoolTube <http://www2.schooltube.com/AboutUs.aspx>
- 3) E-mail the SchoolTube “appearance” to pjwenner@sde.idaho.gov (there is an option to do this after you download your video), along with the notification that you have obtained students permission for them to appear on the internet. Please make sure that I have your e-mail address so that I can e-mail you back.
- 4) Every posting will appear on SchoolTube, and 20 videos will rotate this spring on the SDE website and the Idaho Bicentennial website. I will send notification to every group whose song is posted. Each teacher will act as a moderator, approving the video(s) of your students.

I hope that many students will have an opportunity to learn more about Abraham Lincoln, the culture of his time, and the music popular during his Presidency and immediately following his assassination. For more information or ideas, please contact Dr. Peggy Wenner at the SDE through e-mail or telephone (208-332-6949). Good Luck!

Check out these songs

The Bluetail Fly was a favorite of Abraham Lincoln. His affectionate term for the tune was "that buzzing song." The song was first written down in the mid-1800s by Dan Emmett and it quickly became a favorite of minstrel show audiences. The phrase "Jimmy crack corn and I don't care" is most likely a colloquial distortion of "Gimme crack corn" as found in the original. Although best known as the song adopted by the Confederacy, "Dixie" was also Abraham Lincoln's favorite song, and it was played at his inauguration.

See what you have in your library:

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic” was contemporary with Lincoln.

Stephen Foster (1826-1864) wrote music that Lincoln enjoyed, including *Oh! Susanna* (1848), *De Campton Races* (1850), *Old Folks at Home* [aka *Swanee River*] (1851), *My Old Kentucky Home*, *Good-Night!* (1853), *Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair* (1854), *Gentle Annie* (1856), *Beautiful Dreamer* (1862), and *The Voices That Are Gone* (1865).

Websites of contemporary Lincoln music to check out:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/scsmhtml/scsmhome.html> (Library of Congress—music can be printed directly from the site)

<http://lincolnbicentennialmusic.com/content/view/14/23/>

<http://www.extended.pdx.edu/lincoln>

http://status.sheetmusicplus.com/status_start.html (type in Lincoln songs)

A Great Book of Easy Music:

Songs of the Civil War, ed. Irwin Silber Available through Amazon, approximately \$20